Problems Faced by the Cotton Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

2116. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the problem faced by cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the action taken to procure addition bales of cotton from Andhra Pradesh to enable the farmers to get remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The cotton prices in Andhra Pradesh in the current year are lower compared to those of last year but these are ruling well above the minimum support levels. Similar trend exist in other States as well. To provide relief to cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh, the cotton corporation of India (CCI) has stepped up its purchases in the State. The CCI has purchased 1.26 lakh bales of cotton upto 5.3.1997 of the current cotton season, as against 0.91 lakh bales during the same period last year. During current cotton season, an export quota of 1.00 lakh bales of cotton has been released to the Cotton Federations of Andhra Pradesh, as against 0.20 lakh bales released during the previous year.

closure of Manipur Agriculture College at Imphal

2117. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will : Minister of AGRICULTURE be ased to state:

whether the post-graduate classes Manipur Agriculture college are o be closed;

o, the reasons therefor; and

P.G. Classes are closed, ther faculty is proposed to so, the benefits to be n?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir, there is no proposal to close any Post Graduate courses being currently conducted a the college of Agriculture, Imphal.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise in view of the answer given at (a).

Damage of Agricultural Land due to Erosion of the Ganga

2118. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of acres of agricultural land are being damaged by erosion of the Ganga in different parts of the country every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether Government have been requested to take effective steps to check erosion to save the life and property of the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details of average annual area damaged by floods including erosion in the Ganga Basin are enclosed statement (See below).

(c) and (d) The Ganga Flood control Commission has prepared 23 comprehensive plans for flood management which contain anti-erosion measures for entire Ganga Basin. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog in its Report of 1980 had also made 207 long and short term recommendations for tackling flood and erosion problem in the country. Both, the plans by the Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Report of the Barh Ayog have been sent to the State Government for implementation.

The States formulate and implement the schemes as per the inter-se priority fixed by them considering the quantum of

available plan funds. The State Govt. have been undertaking various anti-erosion measures in the form of bank protection, revetments, spurs/studs and bed bars.

Statement

State-wise average annual area of Agricultural land damaged due to floods and erosion in Ganga Basin

(Area in Million hectare)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Area affected
1.	West Bengal	0.251
2.	Bihar	0.633
3.	Uttar Pradesh	1.245
4.	Madhya Pradesh	0.025
5.	Delhi	0.004
6.	Haryana	0.123
7.	Rajasthan	0.207
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.029
	Total :	2.515

Proposal for Setting up of Veterinary and Horticulture Colleges

2119. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Veterinary and Horticulture colleges proposed to be set-up during the Ninth Plan Period;

(b) the places identified for the establishment of those colleges;

(c) whether any such college is proposed to be set-up in the Eastern Region, particularly in the State of Orissa, during the Ninth Plan Period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) None.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Elimination of Use of DDT as pesticide in Maharashtra

2120. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDT is a commonly used pesticide in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the average annual consumption of DDT in the State;

(c) whether it is also a fact that DDT is responsible for causing breast Cancer and other ailments; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to eliminate the use of DDT as pesticide in Maharashtra and in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Under the National Malaria Eradication programme, DDT is being used as an insecticide for indoor house spraying in selected and high risk areas of the states including Maharashtra. The consumption of DDT 50% WP for the last 3 years in Maharashtra was as under:

Year	CONSUMPTION OF DDT 50% WP (IN MT)
1994-95	676.10
1995-96	1182.80
1996-97	728.20

(c) As per the information received from the Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) no definite association has been found between DDT and human cancer such as breast cancer, leukaemia or pancreatic cancers. Further, there have been no reports of carcinogenic toxicity associated with use of DDT in human being and also no definite indication that DDT may affect reproduction/fertility.